

**THE OBSERVATORY OF THE EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR EQUALITY**

★ INFORMATION UPDATE JUNE 2013 ★

**Reorganization of the Secretariat of the Observatory**

Following a decision taken by the Policy Committee of CEMR on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January, CEMR will close its office in Paris and move all its activities to its office in Brussels.

Due to this transfer CEMR has been going through some restructuration of its organization.

Sandra Ceciari (Director of Citizenship and International Cooperation) and Manuella Portier (previous Project Officer - Equality) are no longer working with the Observatory.

The Observatory and related activities has been transferred and are now part of the 'Policy and Projects Team', headed by Angelika Poth-Mögele, Director of Policy. Johanna Törnström, who has previously been working on the Observatory and UCLG Europe is now working full time on the Observatory.

**Ideas for the ongoing work**

As you know the Observatory was launched in March 2012 with the following main objectives:

- To follow-up the implementation of the Charter
- To provide support to signatories, especially on how to draw action plans
- To increase the visibility of the Charter

In order to achieve these objectives the Observatory are working with;

- The network of national coordinators in charge of equality
- The website [www.charter-equality.eu](http://www.charter-equality.eu)

Up until now the secretariat has concentrated its activities on the establishment of the network of national coordinators and the launching of the Observatory website. In order to evaluate the progress of the work, particularly with the website, the secretariat proposes to set measurable goals. These goals will be discussed at the webinar and presented for the Standing Committee at the meeting in Stockholm in November.

**Suggestions for measurable goals**

For the website:

1. Set a goal on a progressive increase of the number of visitors of the website (and of the number of new visitors).

2. Set a goal to measure a progressive increase of the number of signatories having updated their information in the Atlas (for instance 10 % of the 1300 signatories).
3. Set a goal to measure a progressive increase of the number of collected Action plans and/or examples of Good practices available in the Atlas.
4. Set a goal on the number of collected examples of good practices available in the section *"The Charter in Action"* corresponding to the different thematic of the Charter.

For the capacity of encouraging partners in and outside of the network:

5. Develop a strategy to identify national coordinators (or other partners) in all countries where there are signatories of the European Charter for Equality (29 in total).
6. Develop guidelines and an information kit for the Ambassadors of the European Charter for Equality.

**Mobilization of national associations**

To reach these goals and to make sure that the website becomes a practical and interactive tool it is important that the national associations contribute through the network of national coordinators. The role of national coordinators is also essential in the monitoring of the implementation of the Charter.

Since some national associations are more experienced working with the Charter than others, the secretariat has been trying to come up with ideas on how to better involve all partners in the project and suggest the following:

- Highlight one country per month  
The Secretariat suggests putting particular focus on one country each month. During that month the national coordinator will provide the secretariat with information on at least one good practice and preferably material for a news-article that will be published on the website.
- Peer- group cooperation  
The secretariat suggests establishing peer-group cooperation between national associations in order to share experiences and provide support. The idea would be that national associations with more experience and more capacities could offer support to other national associations in their work to promote and follow-up the implementation of the Charter. The secretariat invites you to come up with suggestions on potential peer-groups.

**Support on how to draw an Action plan**

Based on material sent by SYVICOL and other national associations, the secretariat has written a step-by-step guide on how to draw an action plan provided on the website. The secretariat would also like to provide further material, especially adapted for small local

authorities and an example of a standard model action plan. To elaborate this material the secretariat invites you to provide us with the following information:

1. Material on how to support small local authorities
2. Information on how a correct action plan should look like

### **The role of Ambassadors of the Charter**

During the spring the secretariat has been focusing its efforts to inform all signatories in different countries about the website. (So far the information has reached signatories in the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland).

To further promote the Charter and spread information on the website the idea of Ambassadors was launched. However, it became clear that rules needed to be established in order to evaluate the candidates. It was decided that each Ambassador must get the approval from both the secretariat of the Observatory and the national coordinator in the respective country. In addition to this, candidates are requested to give us a short description of how and to whom they plan to promote the Charter and to describe the link to the activities of local and regional authorities.

To develop the function of becoming Ambassador of the Charter, the secretariat suggests that signatories also should be able to become Ambassadors. These municipalities or regions could then promote the Charter to other local or regional authorities in their territories. The secretariat would like to discuss this proposal further and also how this work could be structured.

### **Information on the Pilot project**

As you were informed at the Standing Committee meeting in Paris on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, CEMR has been discussing the possibilities of taking part in a pilot project funded by the European Parliament to develop indicators to evaluate the implementation of the Charter. The call for proposal is still pending and the secretariat is currently working on identifying potential universities that could participate in the project. If you know of any institutes or universities in your countries that are specialized in Gender equality and have good knowledge of local and regional authorities, please provide the secretariat with the relevant contacts.